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ABSTRACT

There is ample evidence of the seriousness of the world's population, resource, and environmental problems--poverty and hunger, deforestation and species loss, soil erosion and desertification, air and water pollution, acid precipitation and ozone layer depletion, as well as the greenhouse effect and climate change. This handbook was prepared as a stimulus to action. A first step toward action is a better understanding of the complex interrelationships among major global problems and some of their potential solutions. A major theme of this book is that the issues covered are highly interdependent, therefore a topic that receives major coverage in one chapter may also be discussed in other chapters. This handbook provides basic facts about global population, resource, and environnmental problems, demonstrates how these problems affect the lives of citizens of the United States and other countries, cites successful efforts to alleviate the problems, proposes alternative solutions based on the best information available, suggests how individuals and groups can participate in achieving solutions, and gives sources of further information and assistance. The issues covered in this handbook include: (1) foresight capability; (2) population growth; (3) development and environment; (4) food and agriculture; (5) biological diversity; (6) tropical forests; (7) ocean and coastal resources; (8) fresh water; (9) nonfuel minerals; (10) air, atmosphere, and climate; (11) hazardous substances; (12) solid waste management; and (13) global security. Each chapter provides specific suggestions of "What You Can Do," and each chapter concludes with a "Further Information" section listing books, articles, periodicals, audiovisual materials, and teaching aids related to the chapter. Chapter 17, entitled "What You Can Do," contains sections on "Starting with Education" and "Work with Colleges and Universities." The appendix lists names and addresses of organizations and suppliers of audiovisual materials that are referred to in the chapters. (KR)

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